

MAUD H. PURDY 1874-1965

Miss Maud Helena Purdy, miniature painter and botanical illustrator died in June, 1965, at her place at the Pomona Country Club in Rockland County, New York, at the age of ninety-one.

When I first met Maud Purdy, she was a gray-haired vivacious artist of over fifty, with a rather thin figure. She was always a cheerful and most hospitable person, greatly interested in her house and rock garden at Pomona, which she visited week ends and where she stayed all summer. She did not change very much. The accompanying picture, taken in her late eighties, is a good representation.

For garden work and for botanical illustration she had indomitable energy. Like Schuyler Mathews, Miss Purdy was able to bring dead botanical specimens to life, with many variations of line technique to show surface differences. Schuyler Mathews graciously gave me pointers in botanical drawing during his many visits to the Gray Herbarium in the 1920's, but after coming to Brooklyn with Miss Purdy's help I no longer had to attempt botanical illustration.

From childhood Maud Purdy was a trained artist, who later specialized on miniature portraits on ivory. It was through this exacting work that she took naturally to delineation of minute structures in plants. She worked well with a microscope, and would not draw anything unless she could clearly see it. Accordingly she demanded clear dissections of the material to be illustrated.

Maud Purdy was born in Philadelphia, the elder daughter of Dr. Charles G. Purdy and Ellen M. Wildman. When she was at an early age the family moved to the Flatbush section of Brooklyn, — the "Vlackte Bosch" or flatwoods of the Dutch settlers, as was seen from the terminal moraine in Brooklyn. Flatbush was then one of the show places of New York, with spacious lawns and gardens, and large houses set far back from the streets. Dr. Purdy, a prominent physician of this locality, lived in one of these houses.



The Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and the adjacent Prospect Park, occupy the southern slope of the terminal moraine. Nearly everything else of a country aspect is gone.

Weekends and summers Miss Purdy spent at her place in Pomona. To the north her house overlooked Mount Ivy and the Ramapo Mountains. It occupied a crest of the conglomerate rock of the Hudson Valley series, a natural location for a rock garden. This garden was laid out principally by Montague Free, a co-worker at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. The adjacent rich meadows I remember as abounding in *Trollius laxus* and other calciphile plants. The meadows are now ditched and covered to a large extent by housing projects. Little if anything remains of their appearance a few decades ago. The ravines in the neighborhood had an abundance of the walking-fern and *Allium tricoccum*.

Miss Purdy made illustrations for the various publications of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, including for me the studies in *Eleocharis*, illustrations of Tennessee plants, and the Vegetation of the Galapagos Islands and the coasts of Ecuador and Peru. She also made a series of water colors of the various species of gentian of northeastern United States and Canada, with the plant and corolla dissection in the foreground and landscape in the background.

Her faithful work on dissections is well seen in Dr. Gundersen's "Families of Dicotyledons". For the School Nature League of New York City, she made under the supervision of Dr. Arthur H. Graves, a series of drawings of American oaks that I think are unsurpassed. These were incorporated in Dr. Graves' "Illustrated Guide to Trees and Shrubs". Miss Purdy had an excellent idea of the appearance of lines in drawings after they were reduced for printing. Many of the drawings in this volume were not reduced, as contemplated, and lines are therefore somewhat heavy.

Miss Purdy belonged to the Spring Valley Methodist Church, and to the local Audubon and Conservation Societies and Garden Clubs, and was a graduate of Adelphi Academy and Pratt Institute in Brooklyn. She is survived

by her sister, Mrs. George H. Tomes of Garden City, New York and by a niece, Mrs. William B. Strong, also of Garden City. She was buried in the West New Hempstead Cemetery in Rockland County.

HENRY K. SVENSON

OSTERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS 02655

ANOTHER NOTE ON SAGEBRUSH TAXONOMY.

When the western, woody species which comprise the more or less natural section *Tridentatae* of *Artemisia* were studied (Beetle, 1960) a name was overlooked as follows:

Artemisia tripartita Rydb. var. *hawkinsii* E. H. Kelso
Rhodora 39: 151. 1937.

The type was collected in Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming. This name is synonymous with *Artemisia arbuscula* subsp. *thermopola* Beetle Rhodora 61: 83. 1959.

This type is from Teton County, just south of Yellowstone National Park and other specimens are cited from the park.

A. A. BEETLE

PLANT SCIENCE DIVISION,

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING, LARAMIE, 82070

A WHITE FLOWERED FORM OF *BAUHINIA COULTERI* FROM TAMAUlipas, MEXICO. During a study of the genus *Banhinia*, section *Bauhina*, a collection of *Bauhinia coulteri* was discovered which had white rather than the usual pink flowers. This color form new to science is here described.

Bauhinia coulteri Macbride forma *albiflora*

Wunderlin, forma nova.

A forma *coulteri* recedit floribus albidis.

Presently known only from the type collection.

Type: In broad dry arroyo 19 km SE of Miquihuana on road to Palmillas, Tamaulipas, Mexico, "arroyo filled with